

Annette Island Service Unit

OVERVIEW

Alaska Native 1998 User Population.

ANNETTE ISLAND SERVICE UNIT	1,489
Metlakatla Indian Community	1,489

Users are defined as beneficiaries who used a facility that reports through the IHS data system at least once between 10/1/95 and 9/30/98.

Environmental Factors. The Annette Island Indian Reservation lies in the southernmost portion of the Alexander Archipelago in Southeast Alaska. This 136 square mile reservation is about 680 air miles north of Seattle and 900 air miles south of Anchorage. The major island of the reservation is Annette Island, which measures 10 miles wide by 20 miles long. Like most islands in Southeast Alaska, Annette has a rugged, mountainous topography. Swampy, muskeg soils and dense rain forests cover low-lying areas and large lakes occupy former glacial valleys.



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A group of 800 Tsimpsian Indians formed the first permanent settlement on Annette Island in 1887. They migrated from British Columbia under the leadership of Father William Duncan. Denied both civil rights and religious freedom, these pioneers left their mission community near Prince Rupert, Canada. They traveled over 650 miles to find Metlakatla on the shores of Port Chester. Flanked by a gentle beach and granite mountains, the harbor provided an ideal environment for supporting a new, model community. The community developed rapidly, setting up streets, industries and public institutions.

A Congressional Act on March 3, 1891, first set apart the Annette Island Reservation for the use and occupancy of the "Metlakatla Indians and other Natives who might be permitted to join them." In 1916, a Presidential proclamation enlarged the Reservation to include all the waters and inlets within 3,000 feet of the Annette Island shoreline. On August 23, 1944, the reservation's Constitution and By-laws went into effect. This vested governmental authority is a council elected by and from Native community members. Today, the Metlakatla Indian Community of Annette Island Reservation is the only Federal reservation in Alaska with full trust status.

Like the rest of Southeast Alaska, the reservation enjoys a maritime climate characterized by cool summers, mild winters and heavy year-around precipitation. Due to the extreme southerly location, most of this precipitation falls as rain with the greatest amount occurring during October and November. Gale winds (exceeding 32 m.p.h.) are frequent from October through March. Skies are overcast normally 70 percent of the time.

Utilities. The Metlakatla Indian Community operates separate utility systems for the two communities on the island, Metlakatla and Annette. Within Metlakatla, a gravity flow system from Chester Lake provides water. The Economic Development Administration and the Indian Health Service helped upgrade the system extensively. Now buried steel pipe has replaced old wood stave mains throughout the system. Trained personnel regularly monitor storage and treatment facilities for quality, chlorination and fluoridation.

A sanitary sewage system serves Metlakatla adequately with an extensive collection system ending at a lagoon-type treatment plant. Aeration and chlorination occur prior to ocean discharge. The system handles all residential and industrial users adequately.

A locally-owned municipal hydroelectric plant provides the community with electrical power. In the future, the plant will not be adequate to supply needs. The community is investigating improvements through the Rural Electrification Association and the State of Alaska.

Communications. Despite the remote location, Annette Island has a modern communications network. Radio KTKN-AM and KRBD-FM are broadcast from Ketchikan. Cable television is available with 20 channels. The GTE telephone system serves the island reservation.

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Transportation. Commercial air and water carriers provide transportation to and from Annette Island. Local air taxis have scheduled and nonscheduled service between Metlakatla and Ketchikan. From Ketchikan, connecting flights are available to Seattle and points north. Air service, although widely used within the region, is unreliable during periods of stormy weather. Float plane service to Metlakatla is even more precarious due to the problems associated with waterfront landings. Commercial freight from Seattle arrives by barge.

The Alaska State Ferry also provides access to Metlakatla. This ferry makes eight trips weekly from Ketchikan carrying freight, passengers and up to 15 vehicles. During winter, weather conditions often cancel trips. Service is not available 1-2 months each year during vessel maintenance.

Transportation within the reservation is usually by foot, boat or private vehicle. A fairly extensive road system provides access to most of the Annette Island Peninsula. Van and bus transportation is available to specific groups such as senior citizens, Head start and school children.

Housing. Housing conditions on the reservation have improved steadily during the last decade. Federal Indian housing projects have constructed over 100 new units. Modern facilities are now available to almost all households. A significant number of homes have serious repair problems, and housing rehabilitation is one of the community's development priorities.

Education. The Annette Island School District provides primary and secondary education to residents. Two schools serve over 350 students. The community encourages advanced vocational training or college and makes scholarships available to students in need.

Natural Resources. Timber and ocean fish are the primary natural resources on the reservation. The Annette Island economy depends on the harvesting and primary processing of these resources. Because of a lack of diversity, the local economy has seasonal unemployment typical of the fishing and timber industries. Most economic opportunities occur in the following areas:

1. Fishing and fish processing.
2. Timber cutting, wood processing and shipping.
3. Local and Federal Government programs.
4. Community schools.
5. Limited construction.
6. Limited retail trade.

Tribes.

Metlakatla Indian Community - P.O. Box 439, Metlakatla, AK 99926

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DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

In October 1981, the Annette Island Indian Health Center began providing a full range of outpatient medical and dental services to the town of Metlakatla and Annette Island. On July 1, 1988, the Metlakatla Indian Community assumed responsibility for health care under a P.L. 93-638 contract. The health center is in a 8,145 square-foot community-owned woodframe structure in Metlakatla.

Inpatient services are not available at Metlakatla. The most widely-used facilities for inpatient services include the Ketchikan General Hospital (through contract health services), the Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital in Sitka and the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Name and location of Hospitals/Clinics.

Metlakatla Health Center - P.O. Box 439, Metlakatla, AK 99926

In addition to providing services at the Annette Island Indian Health Center, the Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) provides the facility under a lease agreement. The MIC also has a well-organized municipal government that operates utilities and other services.

The MIC provides services outside of the health center. These include mental health and alcoholism services, planning, community health aide services, dental assisting and well-child care.

The MIC provides outpatient and dental services at the health center. Health services at the health center consist of the laboratory, radiology, emergency and urgent care, ambulatory services, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, well-child care, and community health services. There are four specialty services under community health: mental health, alcohol services, emergency medical services, and community health representatives.

Specialty services are offered by tribal itinerants and private providers under contract. MIC contracts with a physical therapist who works two days a week at the health center.

NON-TRIBAL HEALTH AGENCIES AND FACILITIES AND TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO SERVICE POPULATION

The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, provides public health nursing (itinerant), communicable disease control, health screening, crippled children treatment and follow-up and other mental health and alcoholism programs. The social services program funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs works closely with the health center's staff.

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The Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) offers contract health care for Metlakatla residents at the Ketchikan General Hospital in Ketchikan.

HEALTH SERVICES AND FACILITIES PLANNING ISSUES

Planning Assumptions/Problems and issues related to demographic factors.

Forecasting 10 years, MIC is anticipating that services will expand to include environmental health functions, nutrition services, community health nursing, social services, and health education. These services are presently provided by other agencies.

MIC's future goals to improve health services at the Metlakatla Health Center are: 1) Improve consumer perceptions of the quality of care; 2) Improve efforts to meet JCAHO Standards; 3) Offer emergency medical services; 4) Provide mental health services at the health center; 5) Intensify efforts on dental service delivery; 6) Provide community health services at the health center; 7) Improve and increase health education in alcohol abuse, ear disease, and self-care; and 8) Provide low-cost adequate housing for professional staff.

The present Annette Island Indian Health Center is outdated and in immediate need of replacement. The facility is at the beginning of the construction phase in the IHS Health Facility Construction Priority List.

HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE ANNETTE ISLAND SERVICE UNIT

Annette Island Service Unit Alaska Native Deaths by Age and Three-Year Average Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Population

Mortality.

The following table displays the Native deaths by age and the leading causes of death for Annette Island Service Unit.

	1996	1997	1998	3 -Year Rate
Total Deaths	7	13	5	604.3
Age at Death:				
under 5	1	2	0	
5-9	0	0	0	
10-14	0	0	0	
15-24	0	0	0	
25-44	1	2	0	
45-64	3	4	0	
64+	2	5	5	
Age Unknown	0	0	0	

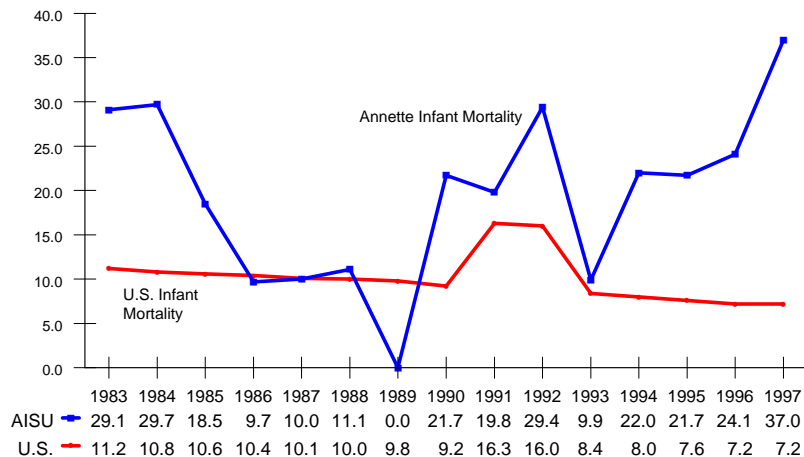
Leading Causes of Death	1994-1996 /2		1995-1997 /2		1996-1998 /2	
	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.	AI/AN	U.S.
1) Heart Disease	199.8	276.4	221.1	271.6	241.7	268.2

Single year rates for U.S.
Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

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Infant Mortality. The following graph compares the infant mortality rates for Alaska Natives/ American Indians and U.S. for the Annette Service Area.

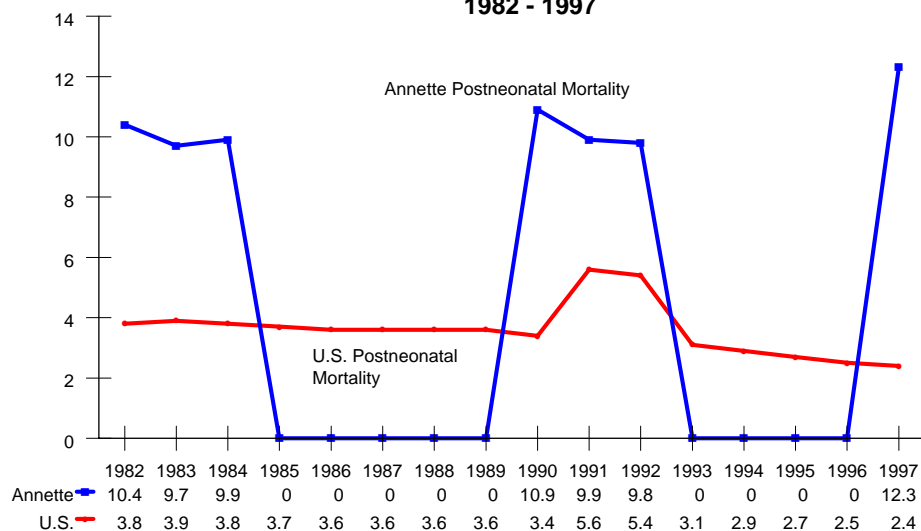
**Infant Mortality Rates
Annette Island Service Area vs. U.S.
1983 - 1997**



Birth rates are rates per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates. Infant death rates are deaths per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native infant deaths are from IHS Reports MINFDTHS-01 and MINFDTHS-02. United States death rates are from the NCHS.

Postneonatal Mortality. The following graph shows the American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN) postneonatal rates and the U.S. rates. There were no postneonatal deaths from 1985 to 1989 and from 1993 to 1996.

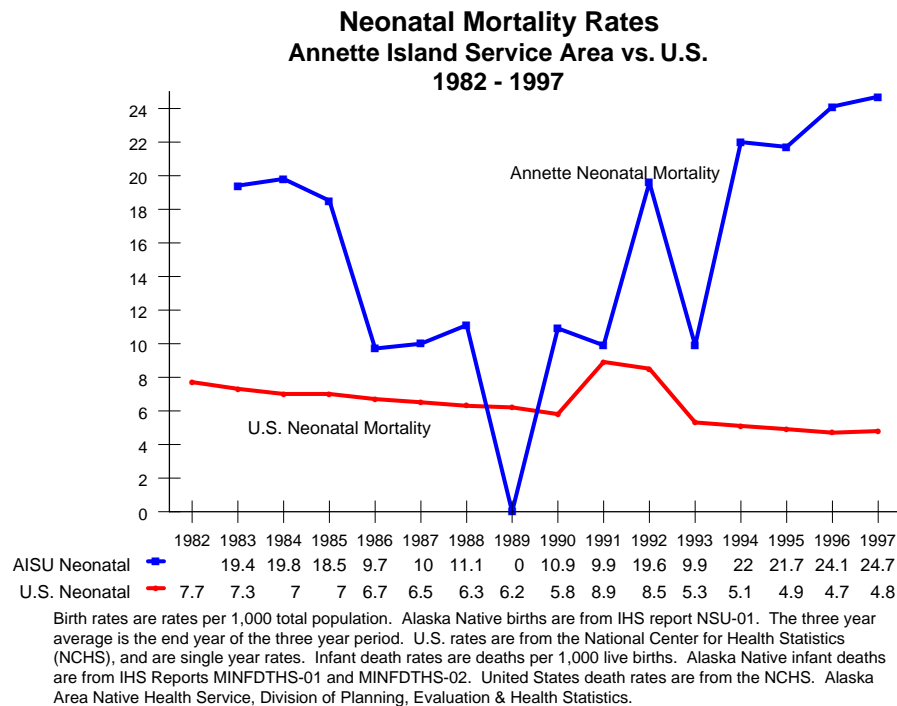
**Postneonatal Mortality Rates
Annette Island Service Area vs. U.S.
1982 - 1997**



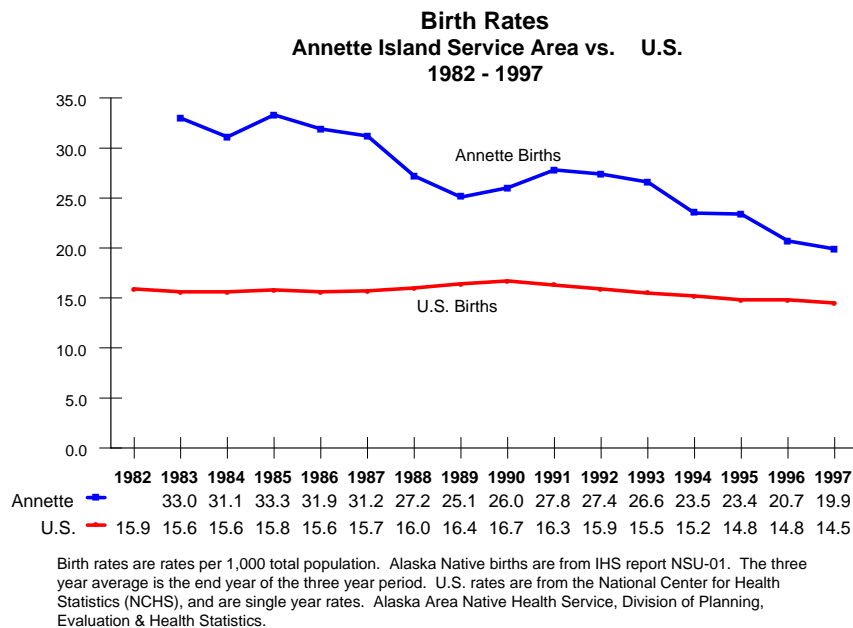
Birth rates are rates per 1,000 total population. Alaska Native births are from IHS report NSU-01. The three year average is the end year of the three year period. U.S. rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and are single year rates. Infant death rates are deaths per 1,000 live births. Alaska Native infant deaths are from IHS Reports MINFDTHS-01 and MINFDTHS-02. United States death rates are from the NCHS. Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

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Neonatal Mortality. The following graph compares the neonatal rates between the Alaska Natives/American Indians and U.S.



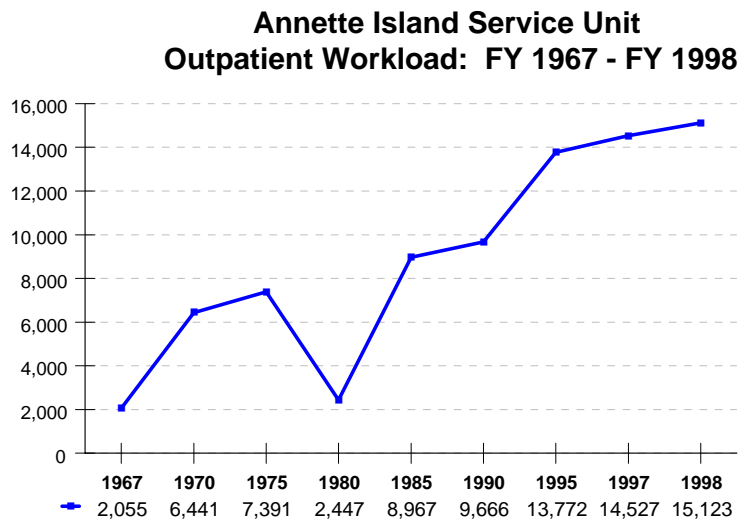
Birth Rates. The following graph displays the Alaska Native and U.S. birth rates for Annette Island Service Area.



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OUTPATIENT WORKLOAD/DIAGNOSES

The outpatient workload for Annette Island Service Unit is shown in the following graph.



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

**Annette Island Service Unit
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 1994 - FY 1997**

All Age Groups	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Accidents & Injuries	1,342	1,561	1,439	1,726
Upper Respiratory Problems	1,161	1,382	1,503	1,469
Otitis Media	844	819	872	1,059
Bone & Joint Disorders	712	910	916	858
Diabetes	372	571	550	705
Hypertension	645	524	480	645
Eczema Urticaria/Skin Allergy	383	480	537	500
Neuroses & Non-Psychotic Disorders	278	303	353	438
Family Planning	433	466	374	422
Heart Disease	259	351	344	411

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1C.